



BILL: House Bill 1055 (Emergency Bill), Commission on Nondiscrimination - Establishment

DATE: March 6, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

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As the state chapter of the leading national organization centered on creating and sustaining inclusive K-12 education for LGBTQIA+ students, **GLSEN Maryland supports HB 1055, Commission on Nondiscrimination - Establishment**. The passage of this Bill to establish this Nondiscrimination Commission is necessary to help ensure that all of Maryland's vulnerable students including LGBTQ+ feel welcomed, safe, protected, and valued so they are better able to achieve their full academic and personal potential.

Research by GLSEN National show that **the vast majority of Maryland's LGBTQ+ students faced discrimination from other students, from 76-96% depending on the type** (maps.glsen.org/pdf/maryland/).

- Almost half, 46%, reported school discriminatory policies or practices of at least one form.
- Many of our LGBTQ+ students did not have access to in-school resources and support.
- Only 27% reported they were provided with positive representations.
- Also, 52% said they had access to inclusive school resources.
- Only 17% reported that their school had a comprehensive anti-bullying/harassment policy that included sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.
- Only 15% reported their school had a policy or guidelines to support transgender and nonbinary students.

We are fully aware and appreciative of the positive support to our LGBTQ+ students from Governor Moore and the Executive Branch along with the majority of the House and Senate. Maryland is considered an LGBTQ+ safe state, and this is highly valued. However, **we also need to work together and do more to counteract the efforts rollback antidiscrimination and inclusion safeguards from the federal level to better meet the needs our students and their families**.

Accordingly, GLSEN Maryland respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB 1055, Commission on Nondiscrimination - Establishment.



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